

this lawless out-of-control invasion. Our border is critically and visibly vulnerable. What is it going to take for us to figure this out? It is chilling to think what may be next. Will it be a shootout on the Rio Grande River?

We must win this battle for our borders. We must win the battle for American sovereignty. We must win the battle against the lawlessness that has invaded our country before Americans pay for this lawless behavior of others. That is just the way it is.

COAL MINE SAFETY

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in anger and outrage. This very afternoon two more coal miners perished in my home State of West Virginia in Boone County in separate unrelated incidents. This comes on the heels of the 14 coal miners in West Virginia who tragically died in two mines just last month.

The death toll must stop. This is scandalous. The leadership, if I may use that word, of the Federal regulatory authority charged with coal mine safety, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, has apparently completely abdicated its responsibility under this administration.

For the national spotlight to be turned on coal mine safety just last month, for those responsible for coal mine safety to be grilled during a committee hearing held in the other body just last month, yet to remain so aloof and so deficient in meeting their mission and mandate just boggles the mind. It defies logic. It smacks of callous disregard. It is inhumane. It is excusable.

Just this morning the West Virginia congressional delegation introduced remedial legislation to force the issue, to compel the Federal agency in charge to do its job, to enforce the coal mine and health safety standards of this Nation. This initiative is high priority for us. The shame is that it now comes on the tears of even more grieving families and this sudden and unexpected departure of two more coal miners. Why is it that every Federal coal mine health and safety law we have on the books is written with the blood of coal miners? The status quo is unacceptable. It is totally unacceptable. It must change.

I now call on the Mine Safety and Health Administration to do its duty and respond immediately to the request the Governor of West Virginia just made in a press conference. Send additional assistance to my State to allow the Mine Safety and Health Administration to do its job. Conduct a

massive and comprehensive safety inspection of our mines. We must put an end to this continuing nightmare.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ADULT STEM CELL TRANSPLANTATION FOR SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House regarding a recent article just published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

As my colleagues know, I practiced medicine for about 15 years before my election to the House in 1994 and I continue to see patients about once a month at the veterans clinic in my congressional district. And juggling the burdens of my congressional position, I continue to try to read the medical literature. And one of the journals that I take is the Journal of the American Medical Association. And I have been engaged in an ongoing debate in this body regarding the potential usefulness of embryonic stem cells versus adult stem cells, and I have been advocating the position that the medical literature and the scientific literature is replete with evidence that adult stem cells and cord blood stem cells are proven to be highly efficacious in human applications, in treating human diseases, and that embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, not only have they never been successfully used in a human clinical trial, and you cannot show me one research article where an embryonic stem cell has been used to help a human being, they have not really been shown to be very efficacious even in animals. We do not today have a good animal model of an animal disease, say, an animal model of diabetes, where embryonic stem cells have been successfully used to cure those animals, whereas that has been done with adult stem cells in the case of diabetes in mice. It was done years ago, as a matter of fact. They tried to do that with embryonic stem cells and it failed.

And what is very significant is this article just published in the Journal of the American Medical Association,

they had some 50 patients, almost, enrolled in a study, and they used adult stem cell treatments for what we call refractory or basically untreatable systemic lupus erythematosus.

Systemic lupus is a terrible disease. It affects 1.5 million Americans. Ninety percent of them are women. It is also a disease that is very common in minorities, two to three times more prevalent in minorities. The traditional treatment has not changed for 40 years. We have not had a new drug for this, and it is typically the use of what we call glucocorticoids or steroids and other immunosuppressive drugs, some of the drugs that we use for cancer. Very significant side effects. No new drugs in 40 years. And it can lead to very, very serious complications, to include renal failure and to have to go on dialysis. And of this group, 48 people enrolled, they cured, cured, 33 people. No disease symptoms, published in the Journal of the American Medical Association's flagship JAMA. Richard K. Burt is the lead author. There are about 10 different authors. Burt is at the University of Chicago. I know about his work. I went there to see this guy years ago because he was doing so many innovative things and using adult stem cells, and he has cured 33 people. Some of them they have been following as long as 7 years, disease free.

Mr. Speaker, this has never been done before where they can actually take somebody with severe lupus, and the only people they can typically get enrolled in these clinical trials are the bad ones that are not responding to drugs. So these are the worst cases. They are not responding to drugs. Adult stem cell transplants, and he has cured 33 of 48 patients.

Just another point to make that adult stem cells are showing tremendous clinical promise. In this particular medical group at the University of Chicago, they have treated about 50 different diseases with adult stem cells. Tremendous promise. Embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, no promise has been shown in humans to date. And as well I will reiterate they do not as yet have a good animal model that they will ever work. They are prone to form tumors called teratomas when they are used in treatment, and there are immune complications. There are a whole host of complications in animals while they try to use them.

So I wanted to bring all my colleagues up to date on this very important piece of research. It is good news for Americans with lupus who are not responding to drugs. Stem cells work. But it is adult stem cells, not embryonic stem cells.

IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, thousands of Americans have lost their